

First you need to create a Second Life account and install the program. This takes about 5-10 minutes.

Before you begin, if you are on an older computer, check the system requirements. You'd be surprised how little computing power you need to run a virtual world like Second Life, but it's frustrating to find out that your system can't handle it after you've made an account and downloaded the program. You can find the system requirements here:

[Second Life System Requirements](#)

Now you're ready to make an account and install the program. Second Life has already been installed in all of the computers in the Eberly computer lab on campus, which is open all day, 7 days a week.

1. Point your browser to <http://secondlife.com>
2. Click "Join" in the top right hand corner
3. Click "skip this step" in the page that offers you to join a community. You can join communities later on, and at this point joining a community does nothing for you.
4. Choose a starting look for your avatar. This will be how you initially look in Second Life. You can change it later. Choose a first name for your avatar and select a last name from the list, fill out the rest of the form and then click "Create Account" at the bottom of the page. Make sure to give a valid email address.
5. Check your email and click the link in the message sent from [noreply@secondlife.com](mailto:noreply@secondlife.com)
6. Your Second Life download should begin. Download the Second Life program and run it. It's called `Second_Life_1-20-15-92456_Setup.exe` and it's 34.9 megs in size as of 8/24, but the version number and size of the file changes from time to time.

7. When you run the program you need to select a language and the file to install Second Life in. The program installs and puts a second life icon on your desktop. At the end of the installation it asks if you want to start Second Life now. Click "yes" to open the program and log in.

Logging in and navigating Second Life:

1. When the program opens you need to type your avatars first name, last name, and your password in the spaces along the bottom of the window before you click "Connect." This is the information you set up in step 4 above. If you forgot it, check the email message Second Life sent you in step 5 above.

2. You need to click "I agree with the terms of service" and then click "Continue."

3. The community standards pop up. These are the rules of Second Life. Basically, they tell you to be excellent to each other. Click continue.

4. You are logged in. You will get a pop up telling you that your avatar and clothing are still downloading. Click "Okay" on the pop up. Wait a minute until you are no longer a white cloud. If it is taking too long to download, feel free to log out by clicking X or file... quit and then opening second life from your desktop to log in again.

You're in!

Now, how Second Life works:

Moving: Your arrow keys will make you walk forward, backward and turn left and right. The home key makes you fly, page up makes you fly up and page down makes you fly down. If you aren't flying, page up makes you jump and page down makes you crouch.

Moving Halo Style: If you click yourself and drag the mouse you can move the camera, turn left and right, look up and down like that, which is how I like to move around. You can point yourself in a direction and press the up arrow to walk forward while aiming yourself with the mouse.

You are in a tutorial area called Help Island. Go through the tutorials and get acquainted with the interface. There are people here to help you learn to use the program.

After moving, communication is the most important thing to learn when you first start out.

To talk to people around you, click the small icon along the bottom of your screen on the far left. That will pop up a bar you can type into. Hit return to say what you typed in the bar. Click the local chat button to bring up local chat in a separate window.

In Second Life people have profiles. Right click somebody else and select "profile" to see their profile. From here you can message them by clicking "instant message" or you can add them to your friends list to see when they are online and stay in touch with them just like AOL or MSN instant messenger. The mute button makes it so they can't communicate with you. If somebody bothers you, you can mute them.

You can also see what groups people belong to and most people put a little bit of information about themselves in the about section. Profiles are a great way to meet people. To fill out your profile right click yourself and select "profile". You can type in the about section here. I'll explain finding and joining groups in a minute.

Click the communicate button, which is the second button from the left on the bottom of the screen. This will bring up a window with two tabs across the top, one for your friends list and one for the list of groups you belong to. Under Friends you can select a friend and send them an instant message by clicking "IM/Call" on the right, or open their profile by clicking "Profile", right under the IM button.

In the groups tab you can chat with your groups and see info on the groups you belong to using the IM and Info buttons on the right.

To find places, people, groups, events and other things like that just click the search button at the bottom of your screen, in the middle of the bar. Here you can find things to buy, events to attend, places that Linden Labs decided to showcase (Linden Labs runs Second Life). From these tabs you can look for people, places to go and groups to join.

To find Whitmyre go to the places tab and then search for Whitmyre. Click the teleport button to go to Whitmyre Island.

Shortcut: If you click the following link you'll get a web page that shows Whitmyre Island on a map. Click Teleport now on the map. If you have Second Life installed it will open second life and when you log on you will be in Whitmyre Island. If you already have second life running when you click teleport now then second life will come up and ask you if you want to go to Whitmyre Island. Click Teleport and it will teleport you there.

Here's the link:

[Shortcut to Whitmyre Island](#)

When you arrive you will be at the front steps of Whitmyre. To the Southeast you will see our sandbox area where you can build. To the Northeast you will see the video area where you can view tutorials on how to use second life better. To the West is Whitmyre Hall. To the North is Crimson Island, IUP's general use island.

To join the Honors College discussion group open search then click the groups tab. Search for RECHC Scholars. When the result comes up click the name "RECHC Scholars" then click the "View Full Profile" button. Click the "join" button to join the group. You will now receive group notices and be able to chat with other members of the group.

To explore Second Life more just open search then go to the places tab and type something that you are interested in on the search bar. Hit search and a list of places will come up. Click teleport to go to the places you find.

If you have any questions, problems, suggestions, or comments just IM Mike's avatar at Bubblesort Triskaidekaphobia or Erin's avatar at RECHCstudent Obolensky. You can also email me at [m.a.daniel@iup.edu](mailto:m.a.daniel@iup.edu) or Erin at [e.b.obrien@iup.edu](mailto:e.b.obrien@iup.edu). You can also IM Mike at AEN1D or Erin on HobbitGirl88 on AOL Instant Messenger. Of course, you always have the option of asking questions in the RECHC Scholars general chat group.

See you at Whitmyre Island!

~Michael Daniel and Erin O'Brien, Whitmyre Island Creators